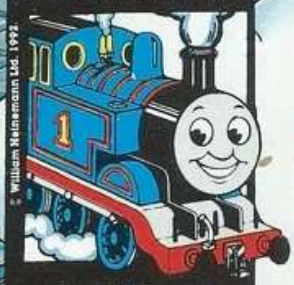
MARVEL®



15th Feb.1992
№113 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

Douglas

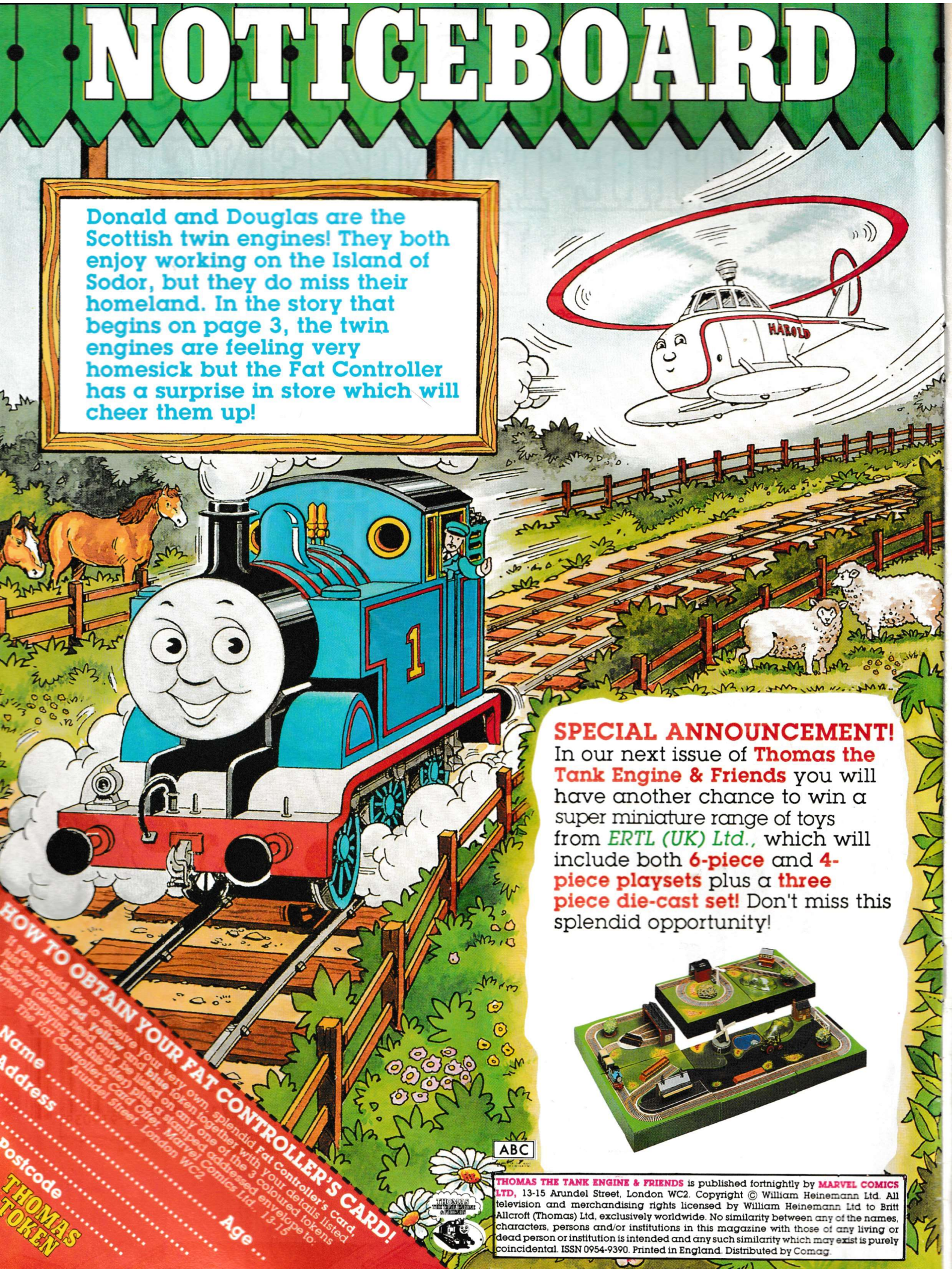
Donald

9 770954 939039 07

DONALD AND DOUGLAS ARE HAPPY TODAY, NOW THEY CAN HEAR THE PIPER PLAY!

NOTICEBOARD

Donald and Douglas are the Scottish twin engines! They both enjoy working on the Island of Sodor, but they do miss their homeland. In the story that begins on page 3, the twin engines are feeling very homesick but the Fat Controller has a surprise in store which will cheer them up!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** you will have another chance to win a super miniature range of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*, which will include both **6-piece** and **4-piece playsets** plus a **three piece die-cast set!** Don't miss this splendid opportunity!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid Fat Controller's Card, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... Age ...

THOMAS TOKEN

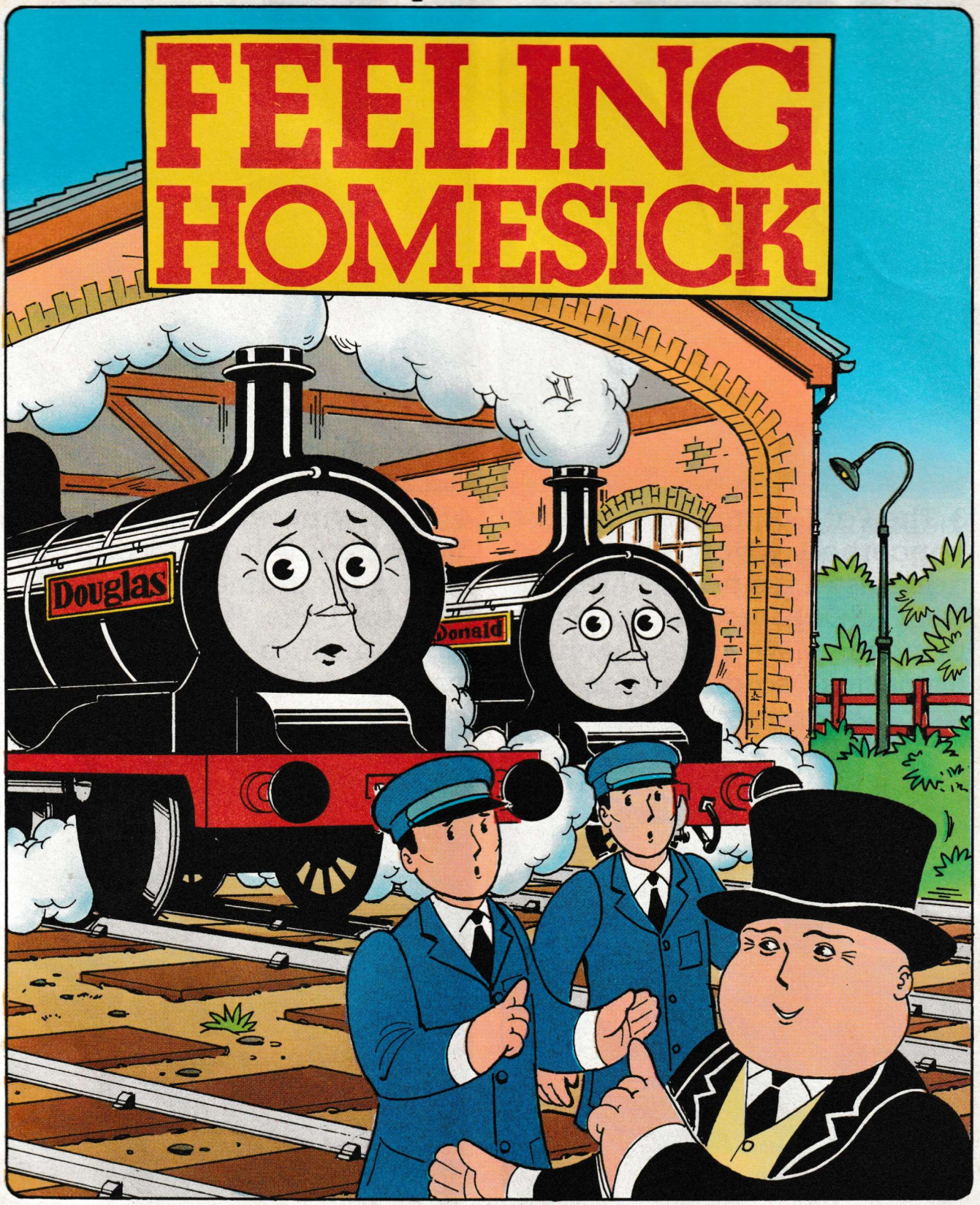
ABC

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Copyright © William Heinemann Ltd. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Ltd to Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, exclusively worldwide. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

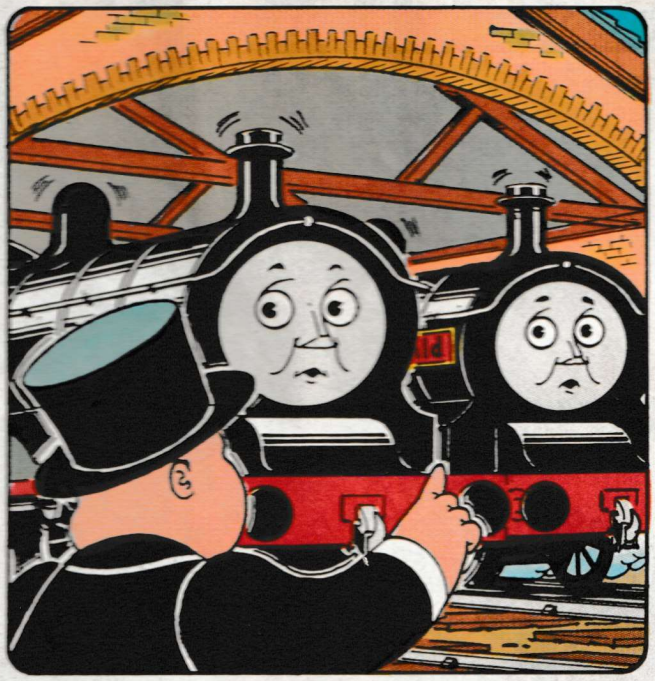
ISSN 0954-9390. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag.

A listen and look story!

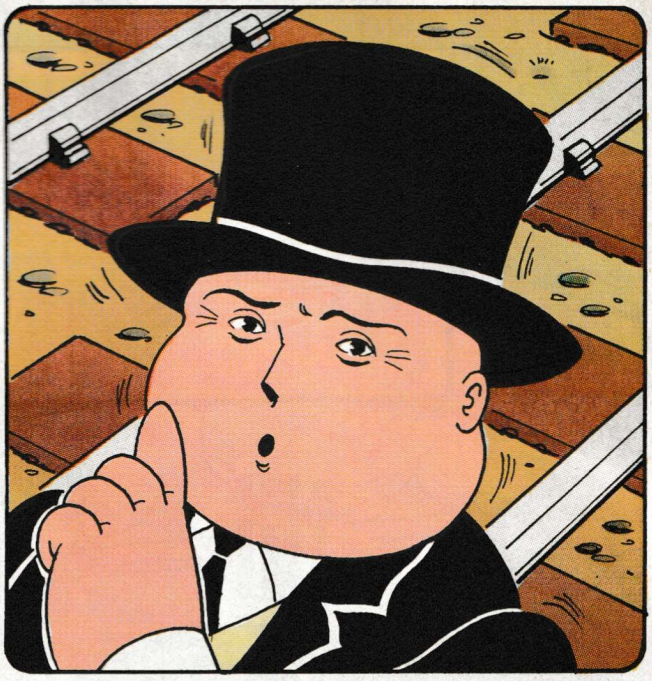


1. Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins, usually work very well together on the Fat Controller's railway. But, one morning, the engines would not come out of their shed.

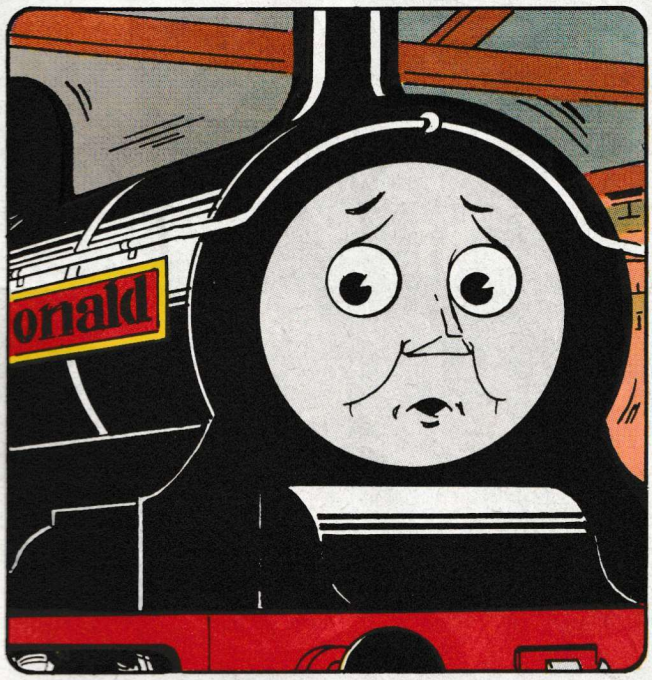
2. The Fat Controller arrived to see what the trouble was. "Donald can't seem to get up enough steam!" said his driver. "Neither can Douglas!" added Douglas's driver.



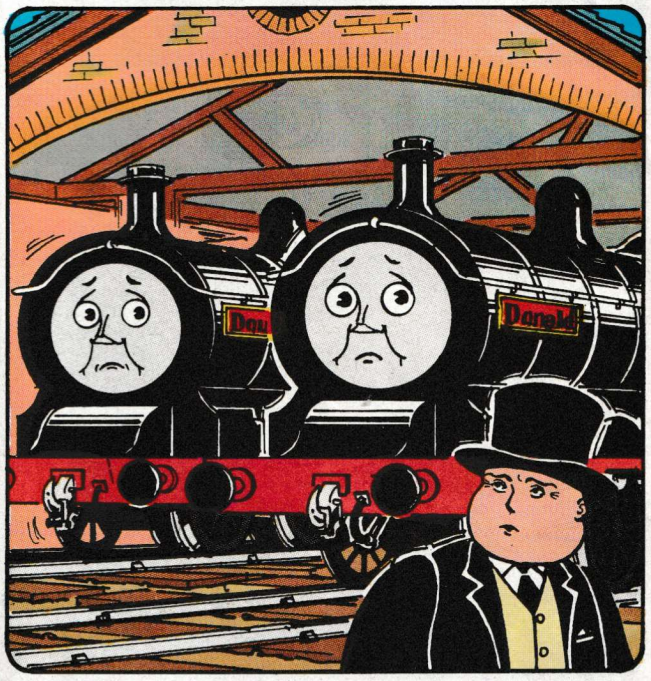
3. The Fat Controller was most concerned. "Now then," he addressed the twins. "Are you well?" "Och, no, sir!" replied Donald. "We are feeling homesick!" said Douglas.



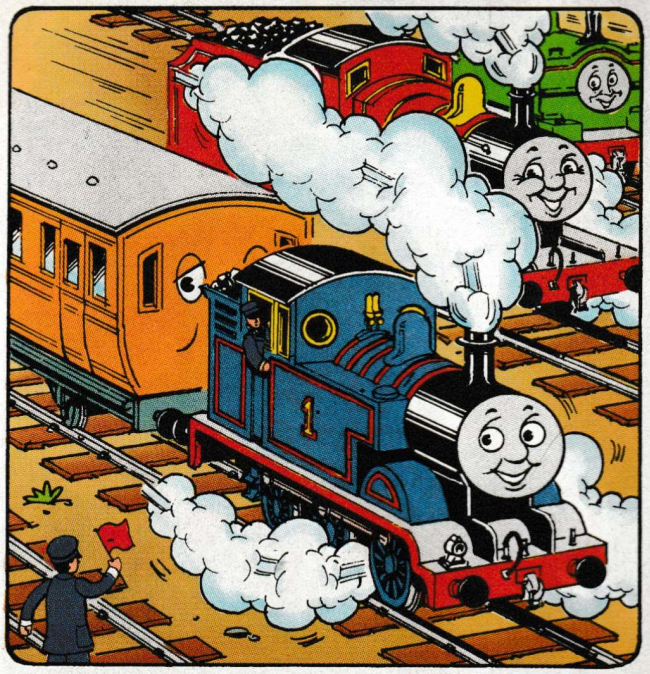
4. The twins were very glum. "We havnae been hame for such a long time! We miss it!" they told the Fat Controller. "Gracious!" he said. "Whatever can I do!"



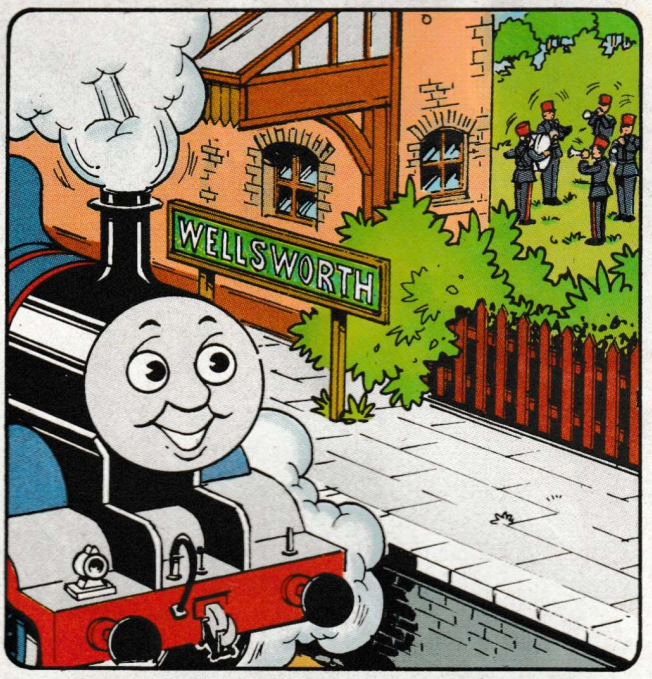
5. "Could we gae back to Scotland for a holiday, sir!" suggested Donald. The Fat Controller explained that his railway was far too busy to let them go.



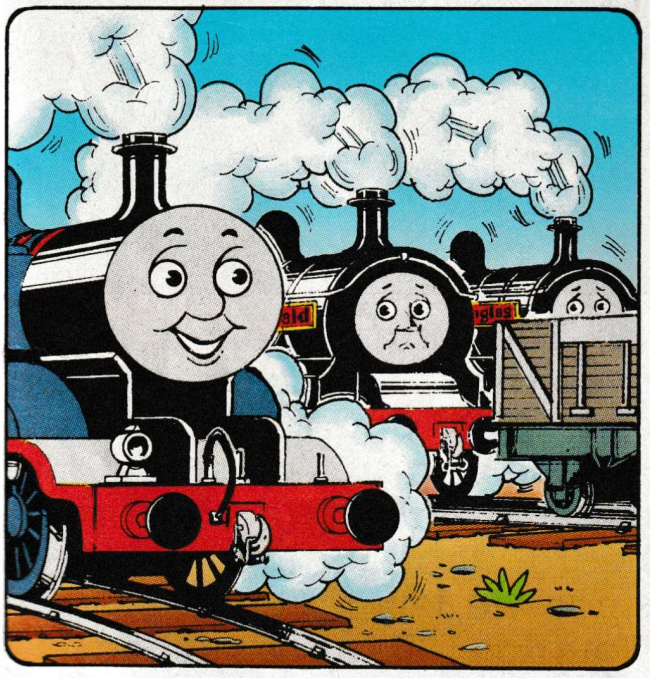
6. "You can stay in the shed and rest this morning," he told the twins. "But you must shunt goods trucks in the yard, this afternoon!" Donald and Douglas were very sad.



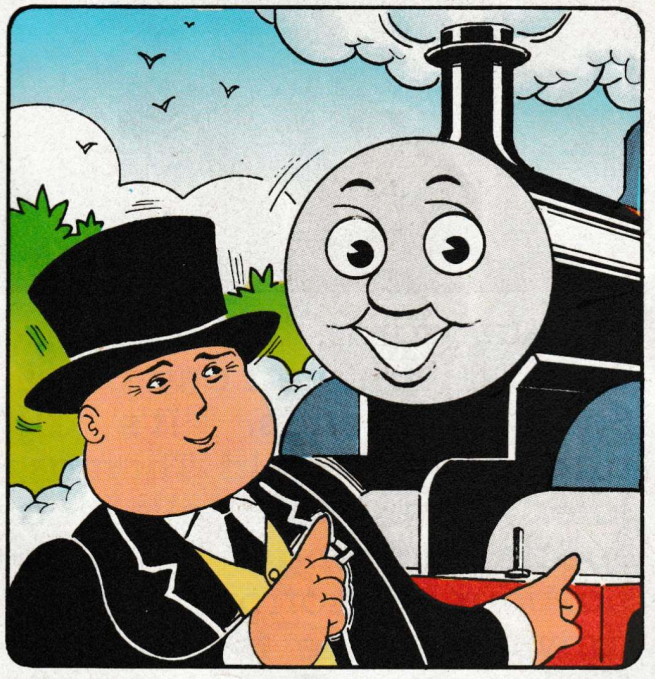
7. Soon, the other engines heard about the twins being homesick. "There must be something we can do to help!" said Thomas. "The twins are feeling homesick!"



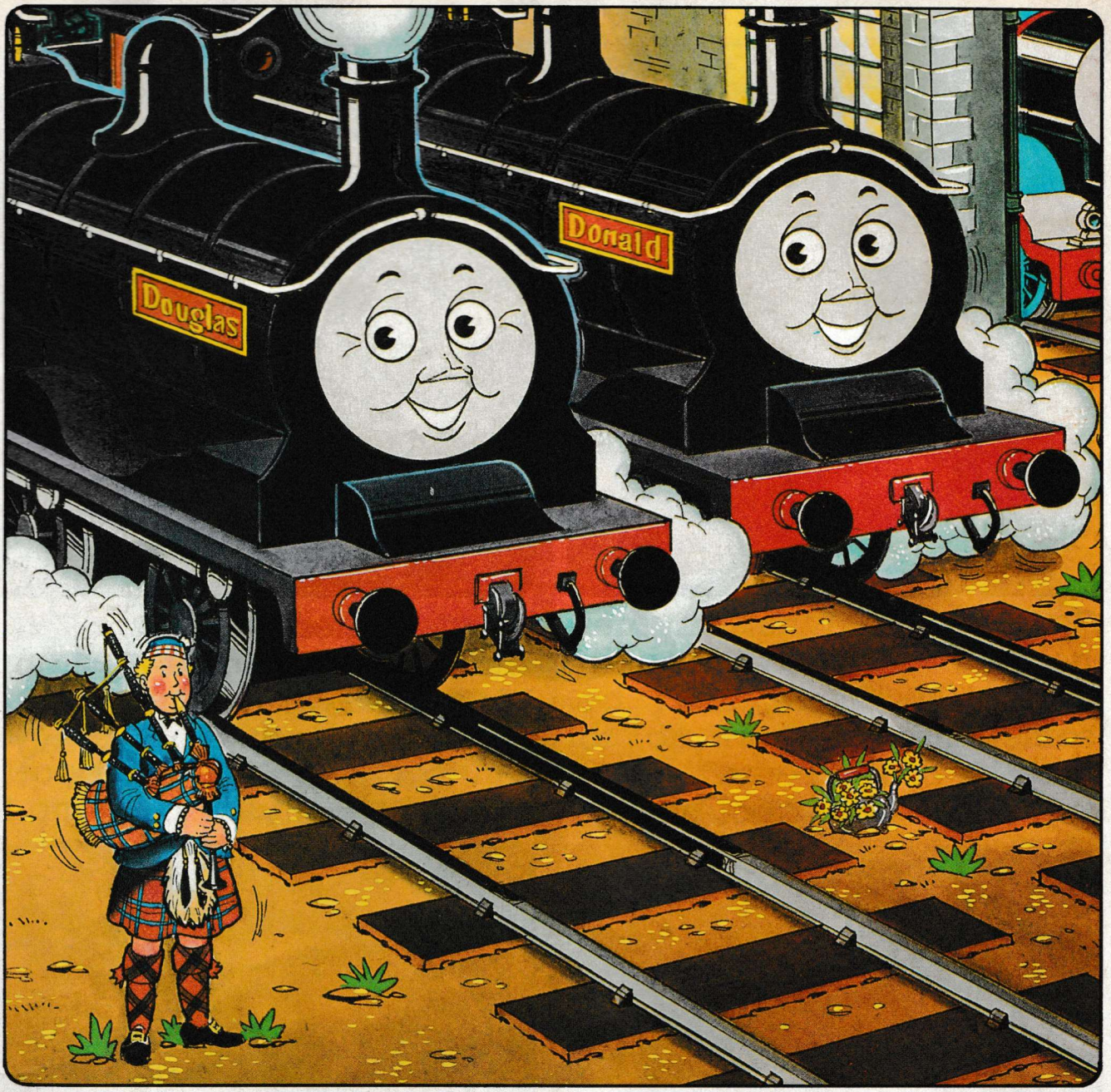
8. Later, when Thomas pulled Annie and Clarabel into Wellsworth station, he heard music. A band was playing in the park, nearby. It sounded lovely.



9. Thomas thought the music was very bright and cheerful. He had an idea. When he returned to the Main Station yard, he saw Donald and Douglas shunting trucks.



10. The twins were not working very well. They puffed along very slowly indeed. "This won't do at all!" said the Fat Controller. Thomas told him about his idea.



11. Afterwards, the Fat Controller telephoned one of his Scottish friends. "It's all arranged!" he told Thomas, later. "You will collect a special passenger from the harbour tomorrow! He is arriving on the ferry!" Early next morning, Thomas set off. He returned before Donald and Douglas were awake. Suddenly, they heard a noise.

12. The twins opened their eyes wide. They were surprised. "Och! Someone is playing the bagpipes! It's grand!" cried Donald. "We have nae heard that bonnie sound since we left Scotland!" said Douglas. Thomas's special passenger was a Scottish piper. The twins whistled happily. The cheerful music reminded them of Scotland.

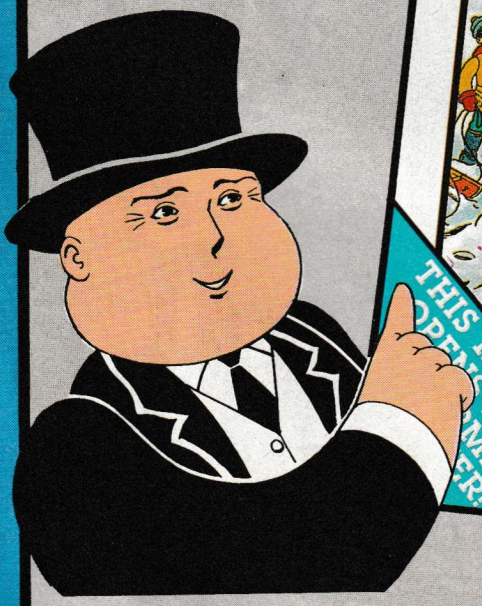
THE END

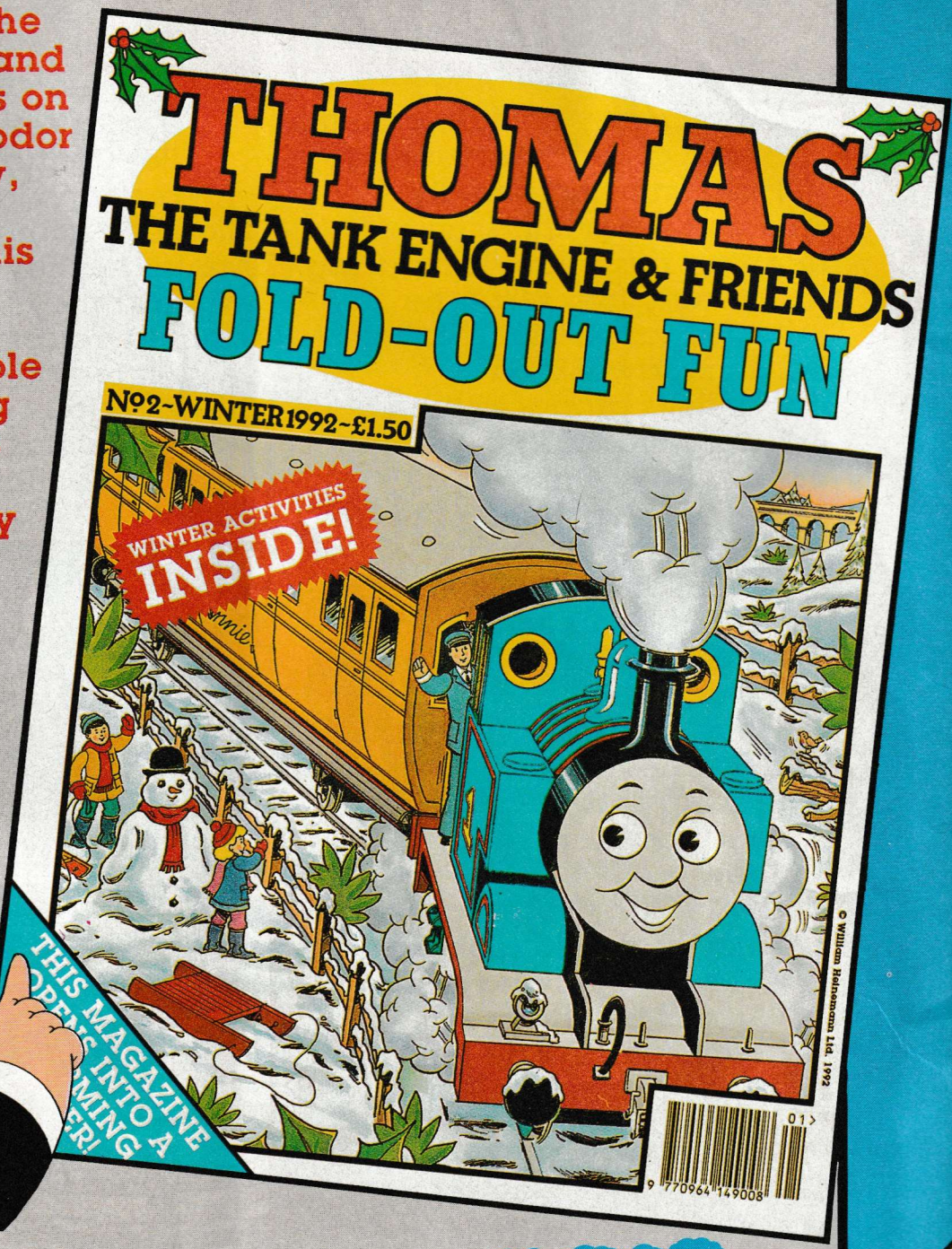
In our next issue: The Fat Controller's birthday!

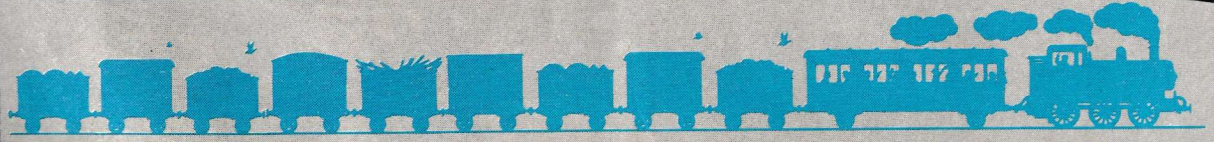
ALL ABOARD

THOMAS'S BRAND NEW MAGAZINE!

Join Thomas, the Fat Controller and all their friends on the Island of Sodor in a brand new, charming publication! This splendid magazine contains a whole host of exciting stories, puzzles and activities which all carry the theme of winter!







This unique magazine also opens into a charming poster to hang on your bedroom wall!

ON SALE NOW!

MYSTERIOUS TRACKS

It was a very cold time on the Island of Sodor and it had been snowing heavily. Thomas was pulling the morning passenger train along his branch line. When he returned to the Main Station Yard, he saw the Fat Controller's grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, waving to him.

"Peep! Peeep! Hello!" whistled Thomas cheerily.

The children told Thomas's driver they had come to stay with the Fat Controller for the weekend.

"We're pleased it has snowed!" said Stephen.

"Making footprints in the snow is good fun," added Bridget.

They marched along, beside Thomas, leaving deep tracks behind them.

"In the countryside there are all sorts of footprints," said Thomas's driver.

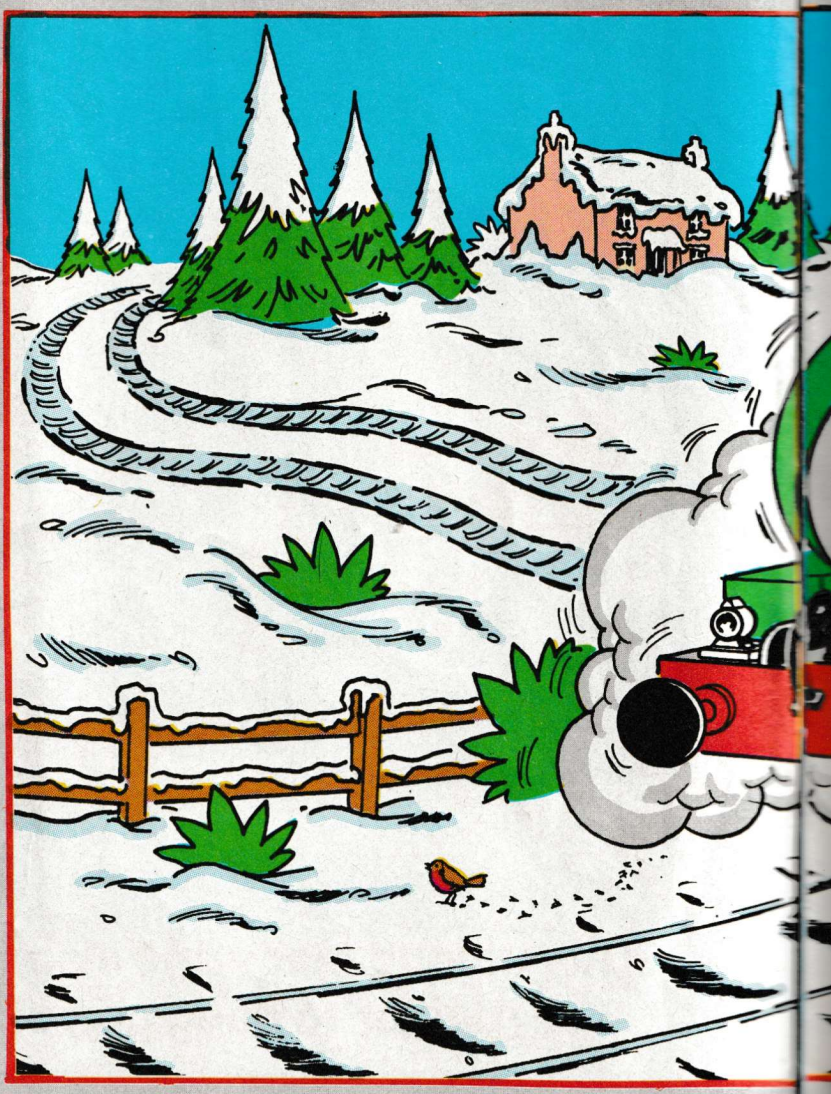
Stephen and Bridget wanted to see for themselves. They asked the Fat Controller if Thomas could take them for a ride and show them.

The Fat Controller gave his permission. "I will come as well," he said. "I must check the snow is not too thick on Thomas's line."

Thomas set out eagerly. The Fat Controller and his grandchildren rode in Thomas's faithful carriage, Annie. As they looked out of the window, they saw a fox running across a field.

"He is leaving footprints!" cried Stephen.

Soon Thomas passed a hill farm. The children saw more tracks.

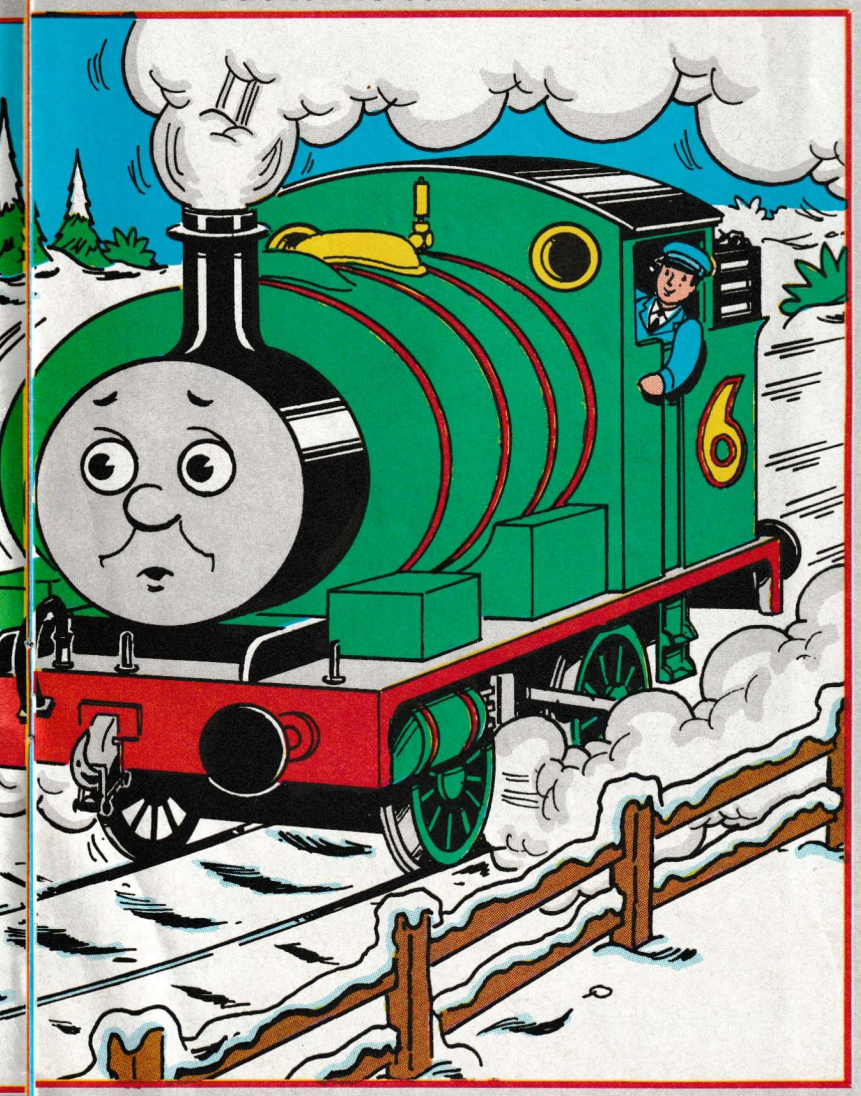


This time, they were made by the farmer and his sheepdog. When Thomas stopped at a signal, the Fat Controller pointed to some very small prints beside Annie. "A bird made those by hopping through the snow," he said.

Everyone enjoyed playing spot-the-footprints.

That afternoon, Thomas helped Percy shunt trucks in the yard. He told Percy all about spotting tracks in the snow. Then the Fat Controller arrived. He sent Percy to collect some slate trucks from the quarry and take them to the harbour yard.

On the way, Percy looked for tracks. He saw two enormous



ones, side by side. They went right across a field, and were very wide and deep.

"Buffers and boilers!" puffed Percy. "I must tell Thomas and the Fat Controller about these!"

When the Fat Controller heard, he told his grandchildren. Next morning, Thomas took a passenger train to the Main Harbour. The Fat Controller allowed Stephen and Bridget to ride with Thomas so they could see the strange tracks.

As Thomas neared the field, he went very slowly. There were two huge, long prints, just as Percy had said. Stephen and Bridget saw them, too. They were all very puzzled, indeed.

"This **is** a mystery!" thought Thomas, as he charged through the snow.

By a level-crossing, Thomas met Terence the Tractor. He was pulling a cart out of a snowdrift.

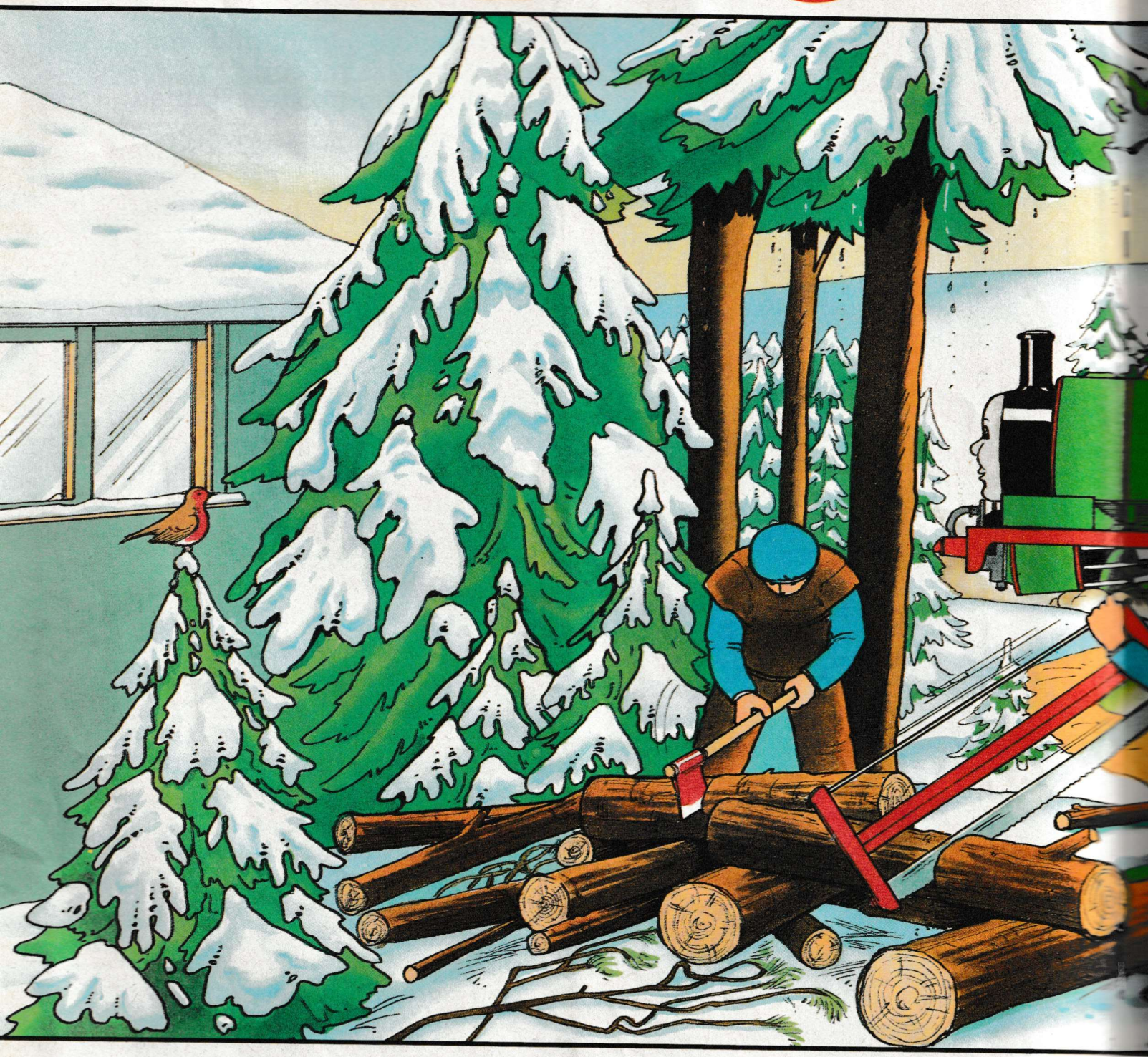
"Hello, Thomas!" called Terence. "I am lucky that I don't have ordinary wheels. I would get stuck in the snow quite easily, just like this cart did!"

Thomas chuckled when he saw Terence's caterpillar treads leaving two wide prints, side by side, in the snow. The children laughed, too. The prints were exactly like those in the field!

"It was Terence who made the mysterious tracks!" said Thomas.

THE END

Stopping for



Which engine can you see?

How many trucks is he pulling?

What are the workmen loading into the trucks?

Point to the motorised woodcutter!

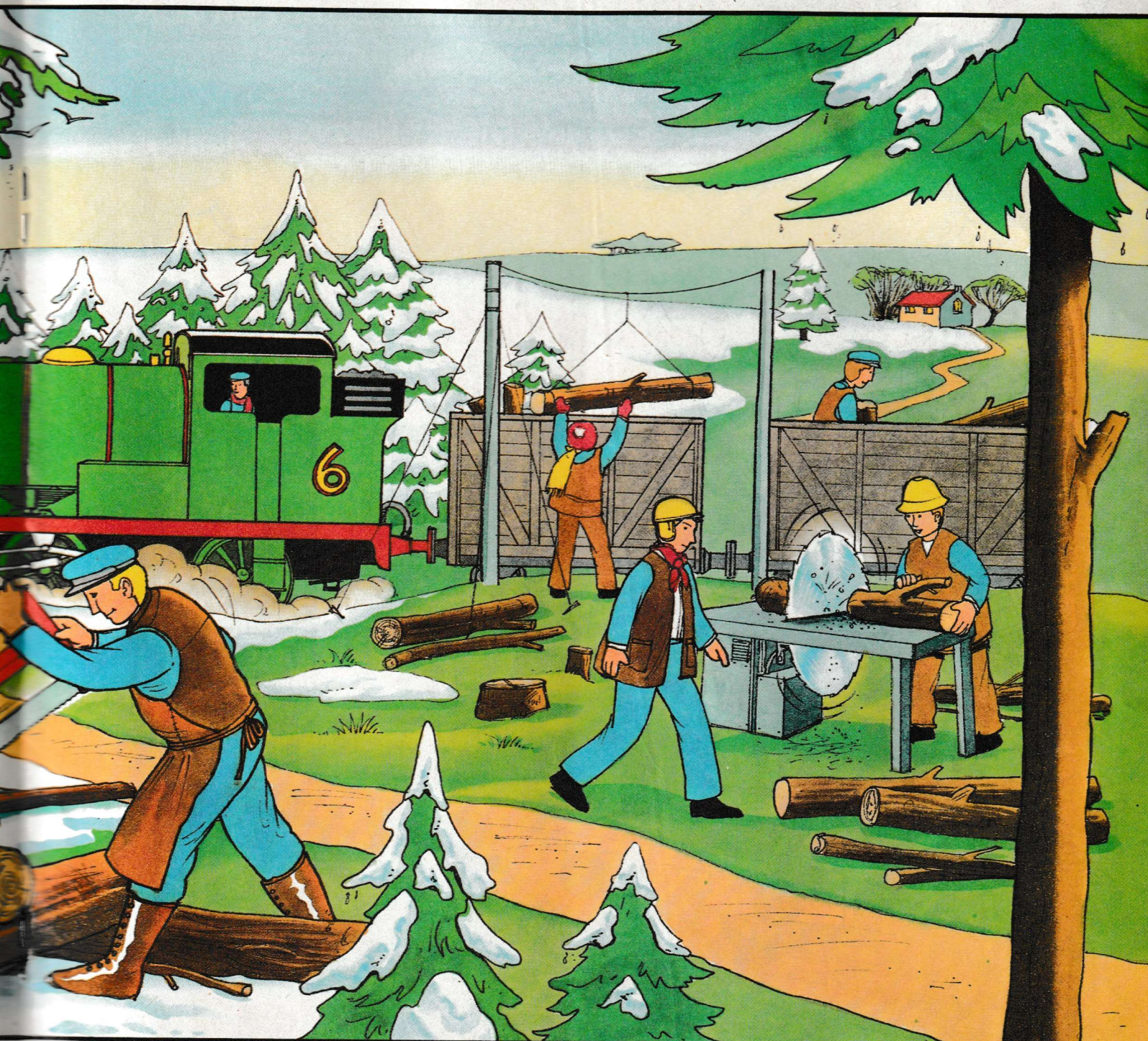
How many pe

What are the

Point to the

Can you see

r firewood!



y people are working in the forest?

they doing?

e robin on the tree top!

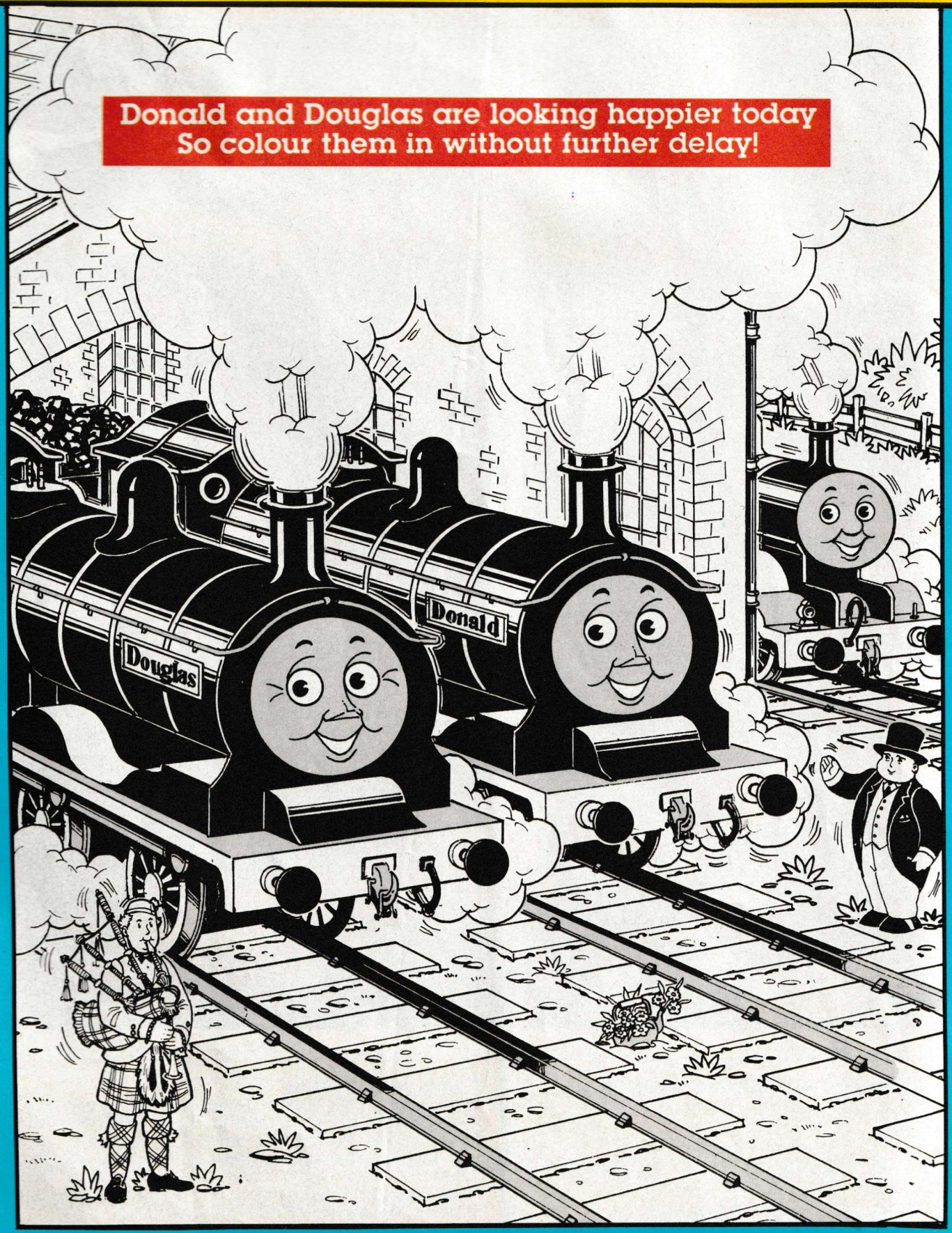
ee the cottage in the distance?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

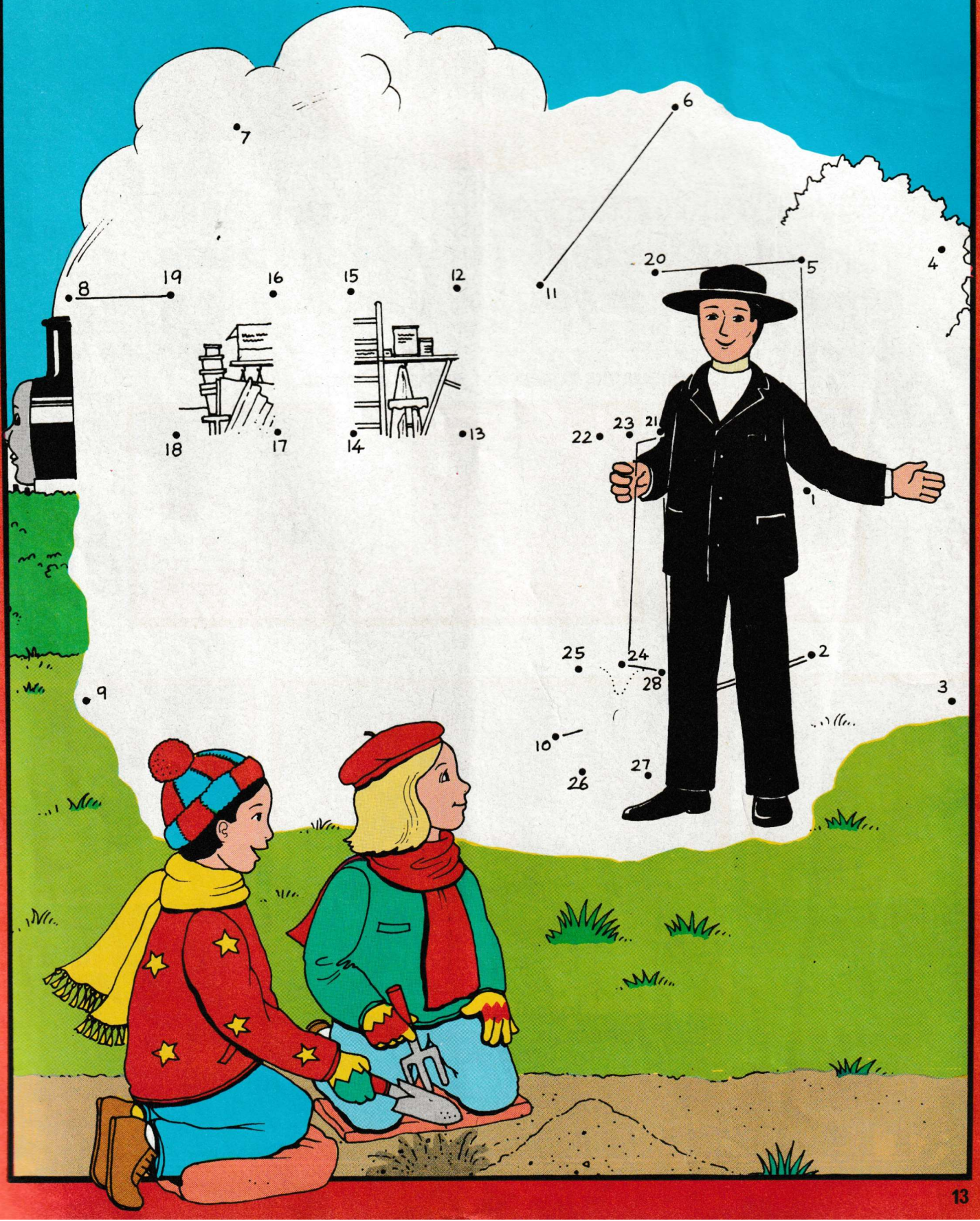
Next issue: Planting the saplings!

COLOURING TIME!



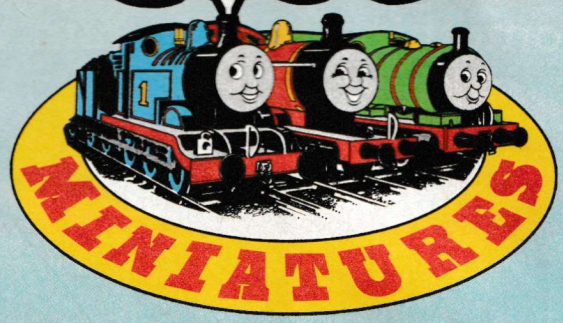
JOIN THE DOTS!

Stephen and Bridget are digging for the Vicar
Has he found something to help him work quicker?



ADVERTISEMENT

NEW



Look out for the new miniature range of Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends now available in your local toy shop or store.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE MINIATURES SERIES

4-PIECE ADVENTURE PLAYSET

INDIVIDUAL MINIATURE ADVENTURE PLAYSETS

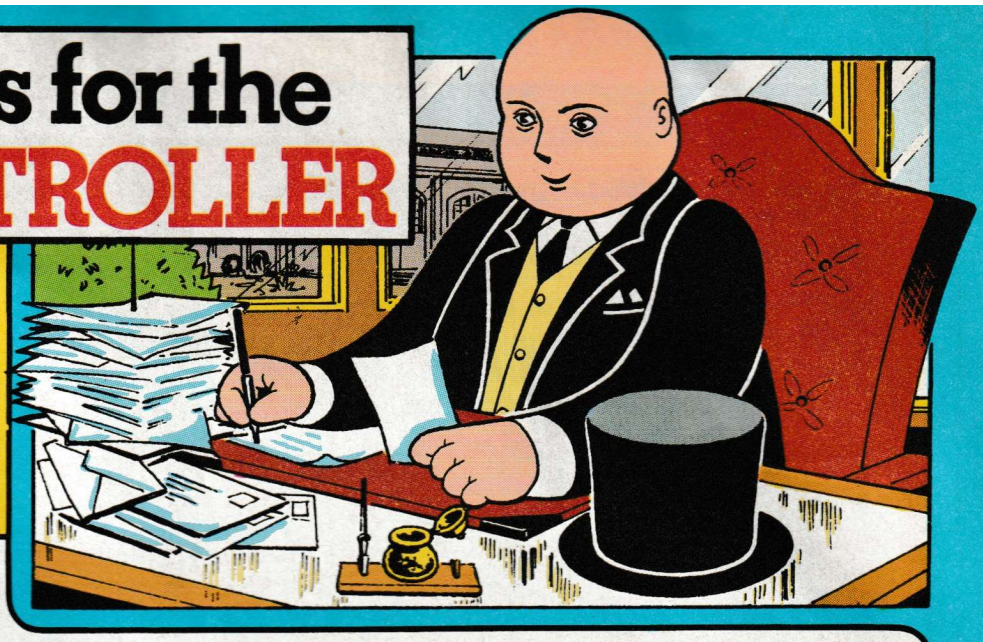
6-PIECE ADVENTURE PLAYSET INCLUDING WINDMILL STRAIGHT AND JOINING WATER STRAIGHT

ERTL

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Products shown distributed in the UK by ERTL (UK) Ltd., Exeter, EX2 8RG Based on The Railway Series By the Rev. W. Awdry
© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1991. NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER 36 MONTHS

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
You met me at the station
And showed me around the yard
Thomas, James and Henry
Were working very hard!
That's when my dream holiday
Ended with a crack
You see I'd fallen out of bed
Upon my own track!
Love from **Scott,** aged 4.

Gracious me! *What splendid rhyme Your letter has won a prize this time!*

FINE RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mum and dad recently took me on the 'Watercress Railway' in Hampshire. We saw lots of steam engines and enjoyed travelling on the trains. We didn't see Thomas but we did see three different steam engines and they looked very clean and shiny!
Love from **Keith,** aged 4.

My! My! *The 'Watercress' is a very fine railway indeed! They have a particularly interesting engine shed and they take great pride in keeping their engines bright and shiny!*

FRIENDS OF THOMAS!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have just started nursery school and have made lots of new friends. Does Thomas have lots of friends?
Love from **Thomas Drew.**

Thomas is very popular with all the children on the Island of Sodor and many of the other engines have lots of friends too, particularly Trevor!

BIRTHDAYS!

Pat Herlihy, Christopher Smith (37297), Sam Wigg, Graeme Gunn (34883), James Tyler, Karen McDowell, James Millington, Michael Peter Hiley (36022), Martyn Normanton (18584) and Colin Sutherland (34090).

If you would like a birthday mention on this page, please send your details at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank motorised engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

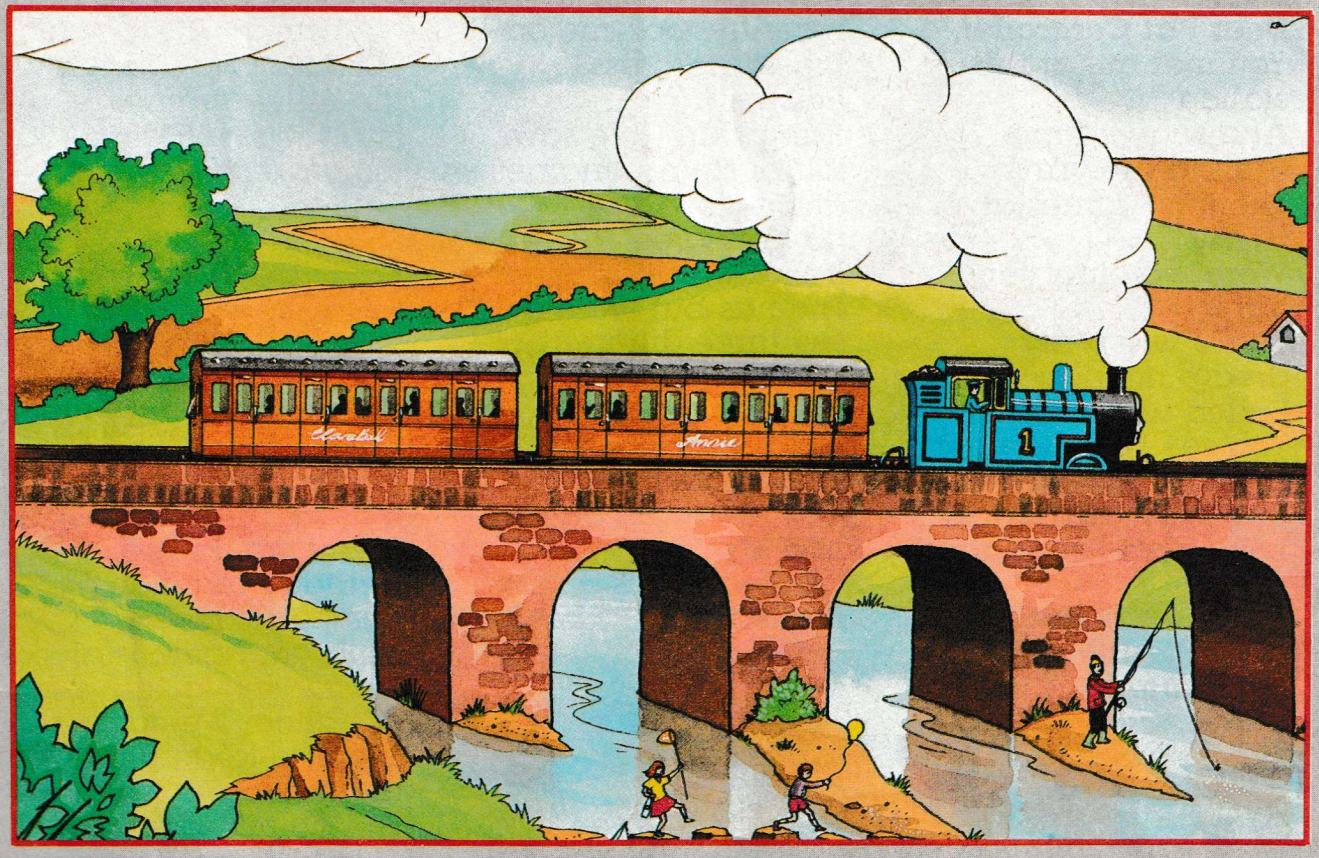
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (**£35.00** overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas)
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas).

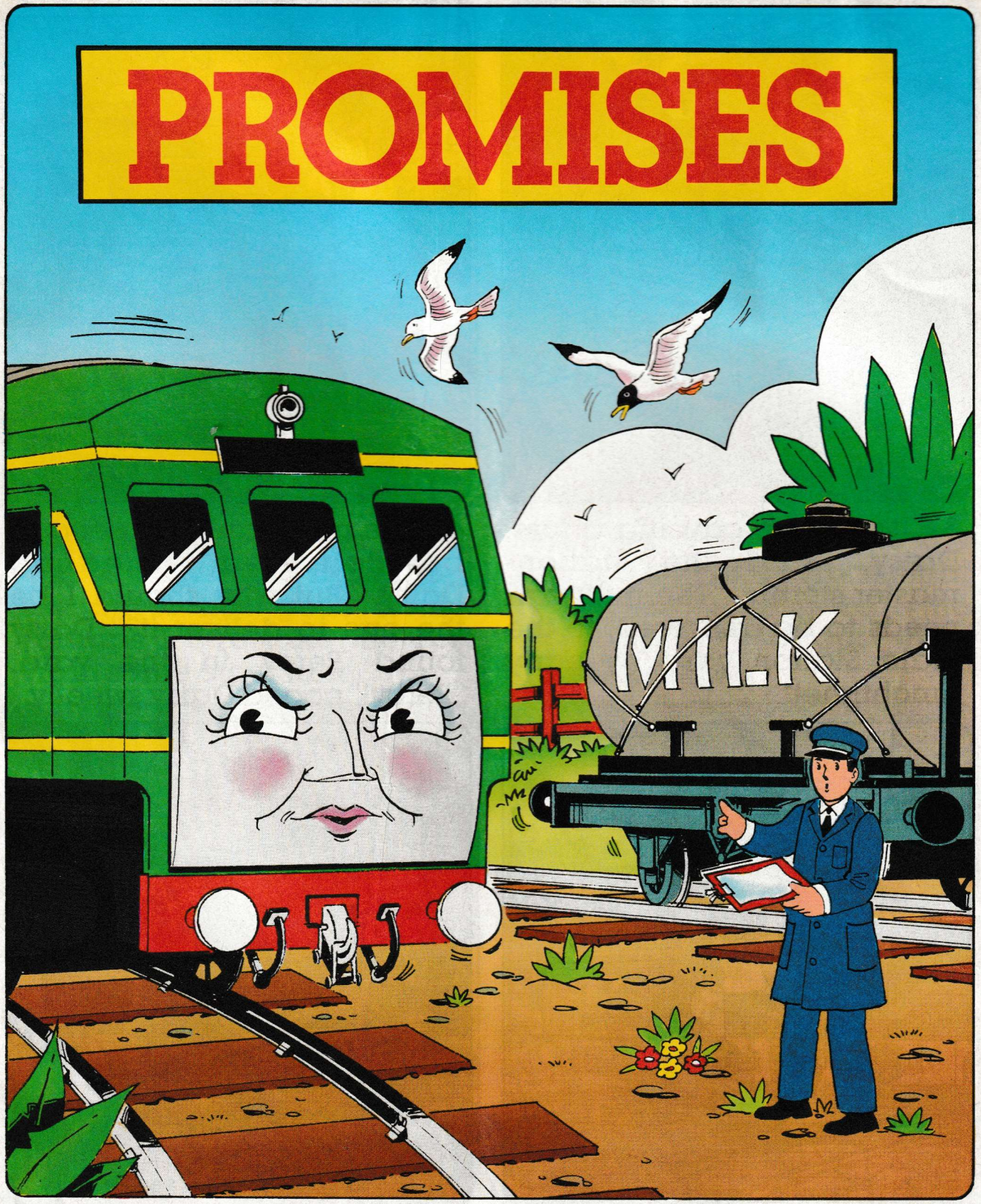
Child's name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....
.....
Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

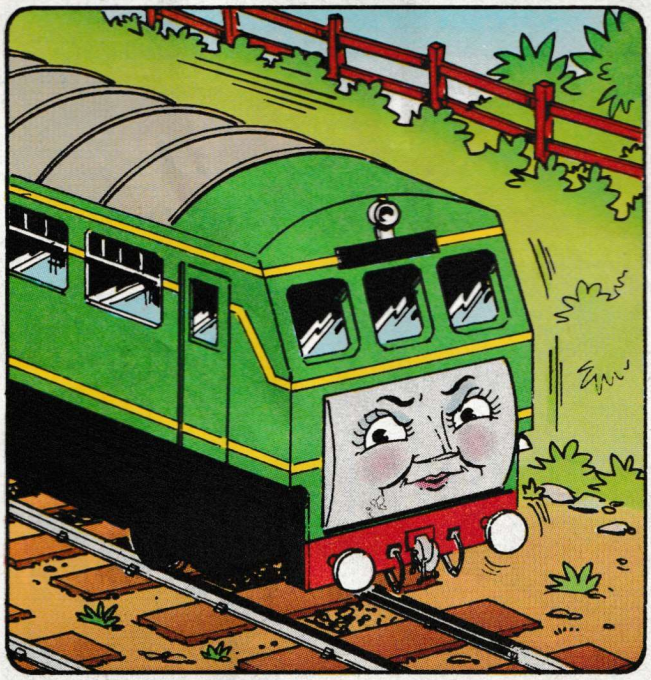
(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

A listen and look story!

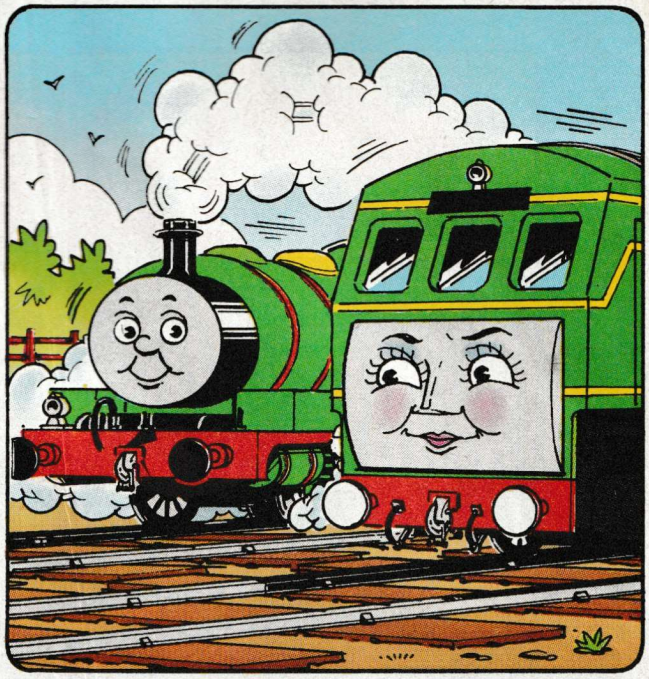


1. Daisy is the most modern diesel railcar working on the Fat Controller's railway, and she's proud of it too. Daisy can be quite reluctant to carry out certain tasks.

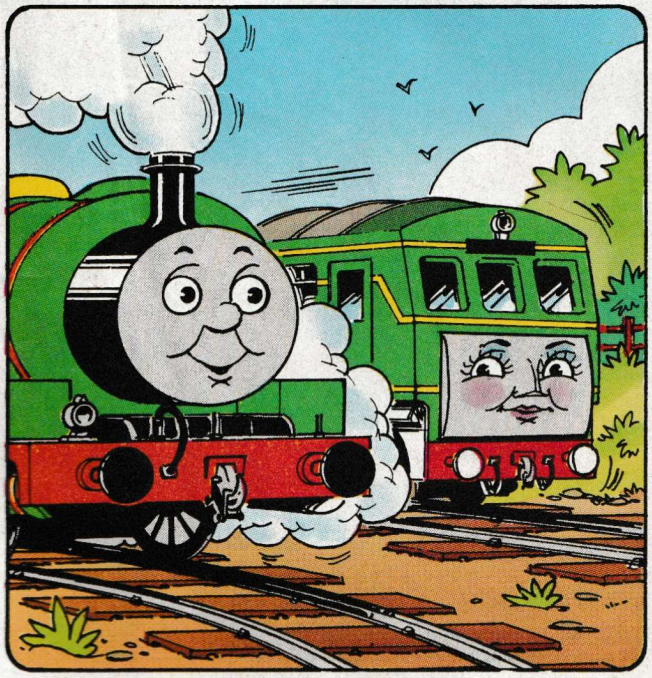
2. So when the Stationmaster told Daisy to pull the milk van, she complained. "I am a diesel railcar," said Daisy. "Diesel railcars like to carry passengers, not milk!"



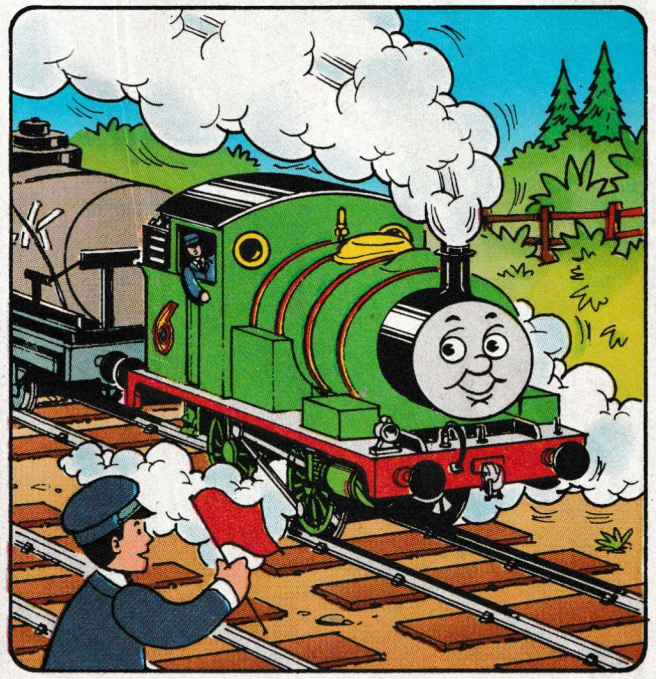
3. "It's no use causing a fuss, Daisy," said the Station-master sternly. "The milk van needs to be delivered, to the Main Station yard by early lunchtime!"



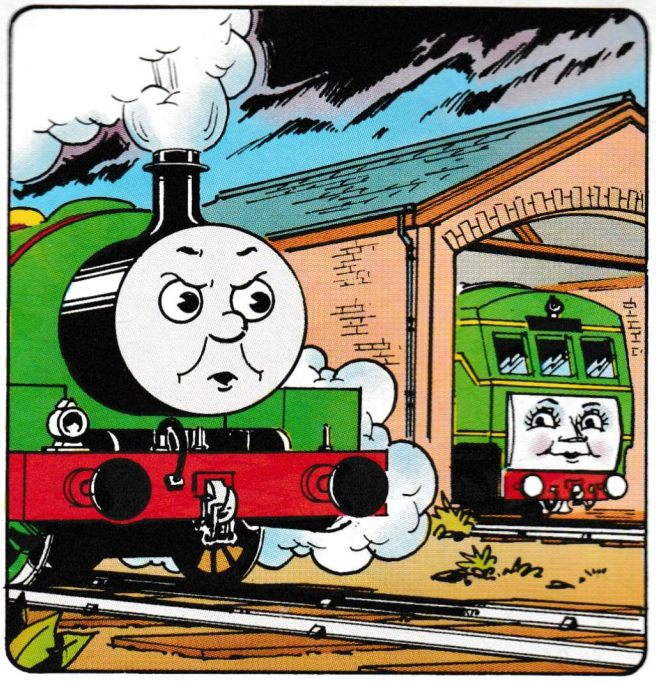
4. "The milk van may need to be delivered," moaned Daisy. "But why should I be the one to deliver it?" Daisy found Percy in the yard. "Percy!" cooed Daisy sweetly.



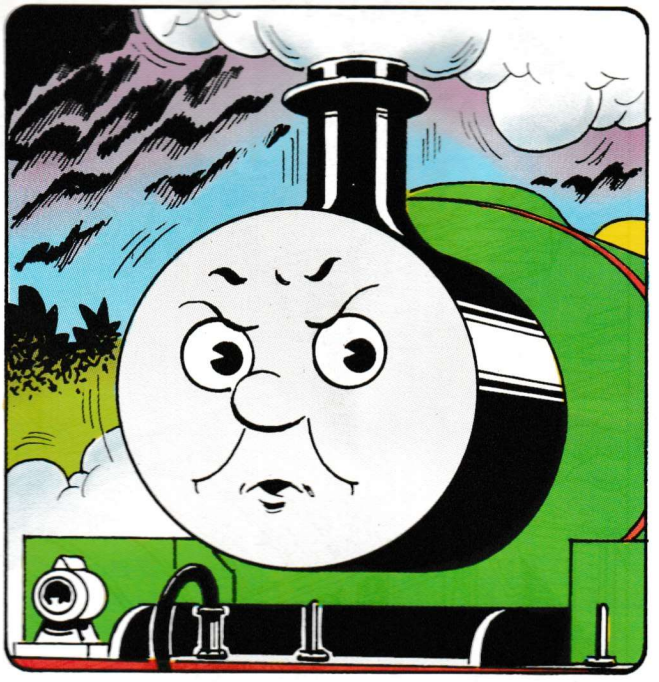
5. "Could you do a little favour for me?" "Certainly," said Percy helpfully. "If you'll take the milk van for me," said Daisy. "I'll take the Post Train for you. I promise."



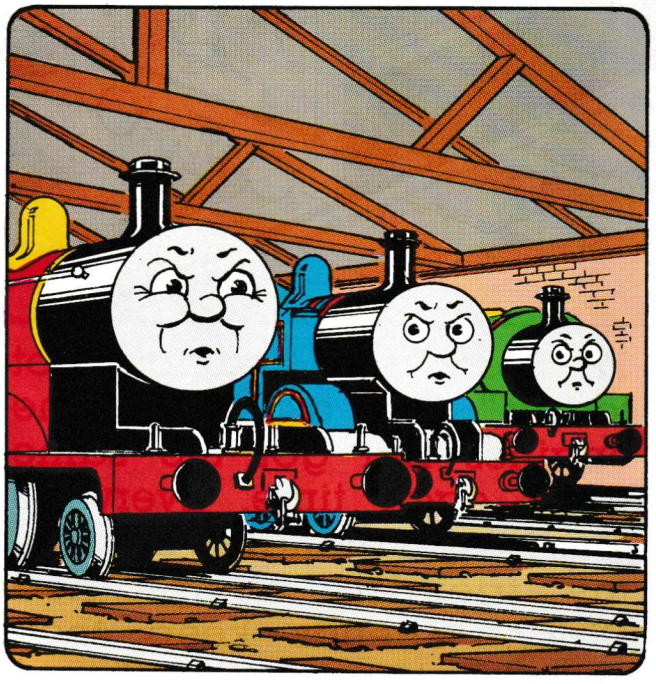
6. "Very well," agreed Percy, who didn't mind taking the milk van. But that night when it was time for the Post Train to leave, Daisy was nowhere to be seen.



7. At last Percy found her standing idle in her shed. "I'm so sorry," said Daisy. "But my driver has gone home. Perhaps I can take the Post Train some other time."

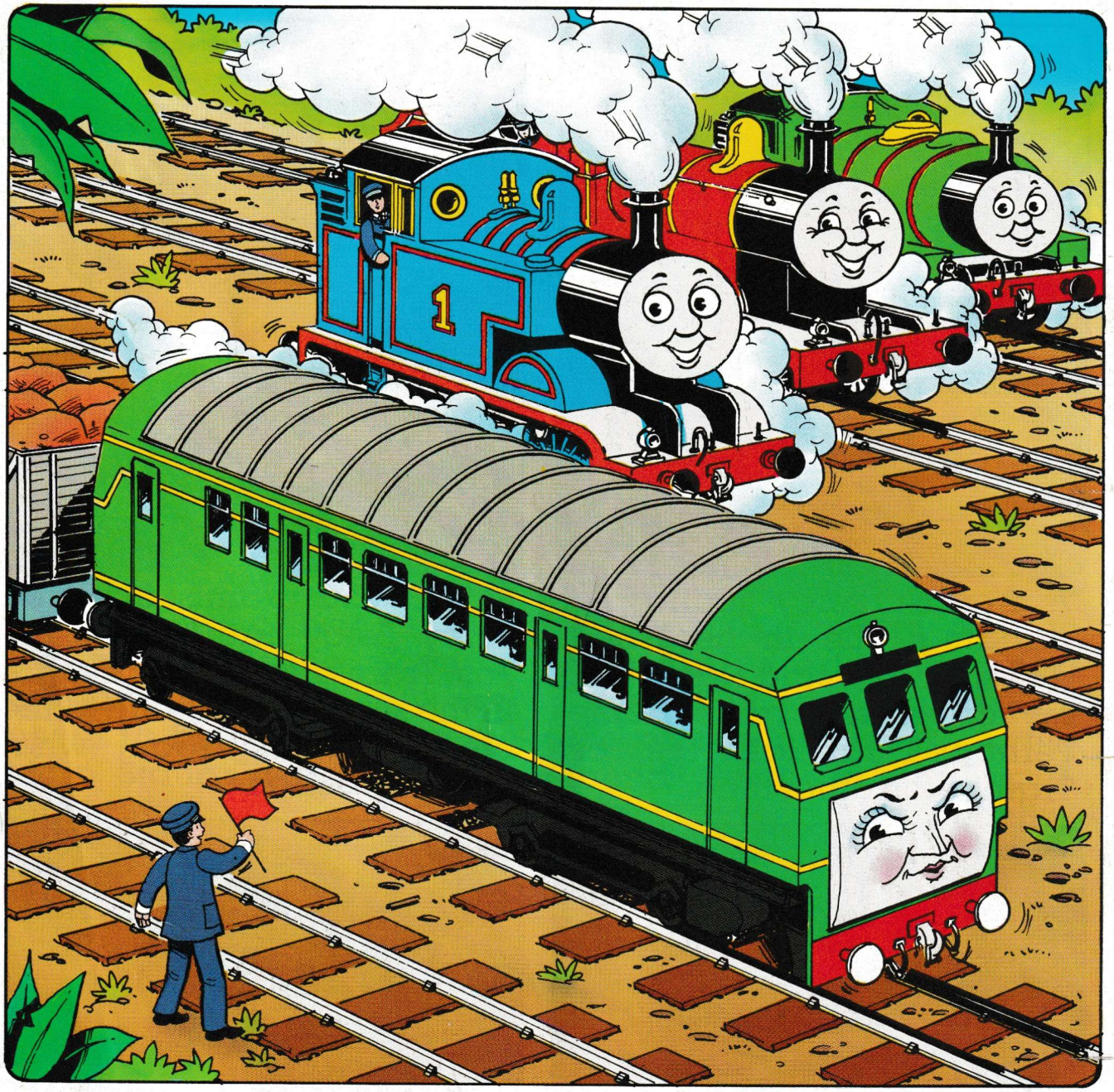


8. "But you promised!" cried Percy. Percy had to take the Post Train after all. That night in the shed Percy spoke to the other engines about what had happened.



9. "That's typical of Daisy!" said James. "She never keeps her promises," added Thomas. All the engines agreed that something must be done to teach Daisy a lesson.

10. The engines went to see the Stationmaster the next day. "Very well," said the Stationmaster. "Leave it to me." That afternoon, Daisy was very surprised indeed.



11. "I would like you to take the feed train to the hill farms Daisy," said the Stationmaster. "But my fitter warned me never to cross farm crossings!" protested Daisy. "But that's your job," said the Stationmaster. So Daisy rushed off to the yard. "Please, Thomas," she cooed, "Would you do a very small favour for me?"

12. "Sorry," said Thomas. "Not today." She asked all the engines but got the same reply each time. Everyone was busy. I thought you were my friends!" complained Daisy. "Friends keep their promises to each other," said Percy. Daisy had to take the Feed Train herself. Now Daisy tries to keep her promises to all the other engines.

THE END

In our next issue: James's truck!